

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a cell, ~~comprising~~ comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ ~~the steps of~~ irradiating a living cell or a living tissue with a laser beam through  
~~an a hollow~~ optical ~~fiber~~, fiber filled with an inert gas; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ cutting off, removing or boring a cell wall or a cell membrane or an entirety of  
the cell wall thus irradiated;

wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing  
which are effected through a chip of quartz glass.

2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser beam has a  
wavelength of 500 nm or less.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface of  
the quartz glass chip is coated with a metal.

6. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 5, wherein the coating  
metal is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, platinum, gold,  
palladium, and oxides thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser is at  
least one laser selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar  
ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-excited laser.

8. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, which further  
comprises ~~a step of~~ introducing a foreign matter into the living cell and/or the living ~~cell~~  
tissue through a laser-irradiated portion thereof after irradiation with the laser beam.

9. (Original) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein the foreign matter is at least one selected from the group consisting of a genetic substance, a protein, an organelle, a physiologically active substance and an indicating agent.

10. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, wherein the genetic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of a DNA, an RNA, an oligonucleotide, a plasmid, a chromosome, an artificial chromosome, an organelle DNA, and a nucleic acid analogue.

11-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 12~~, claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at least one gas selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen gas, an argon gas and a helium gas.

14. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in ~~claim 11~~, claim 1, wherein a wall surface ~~of a~~ of the hollow space ~~of the~~ optical fiber is coated with a metal.

15. (Canceled).